xxii.

The Humble PETITION, And DECLARATION Of both Houses of PARLIAMENT, To the Kings most Excellent *MAJESTY*:

Sent to *Yorke*, by one Lord, and two Members of the House of Commons, on *Wednesday* the 23. of *March*. 1641.

In Answer to every particular of his Majesties Speech at *New-market*: which hee made to the Committee *of both Houses when they presented the last Declaration.*

With their Additionall Information received from the Governour of *Roterdam*, concerning the great Fleet prepared in *Denmarke*, which by meanes of the Lord *Digby* should have been transported over to *Hull*.

London, Printed for *F. Coules*, and *T. Bates*. 1641.

This Petition [illegible] to ye King of his Deniall of ye Parliamen A Card for there Verse XXII.

And the kinges entertainenc of Cavelers March 23. 1641. into Whithall for his defence,

TO THE KINGS most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition and Declaration of the Lords and Commons, assembled in PARLIAMENT.

May it please Your Majesty,

YOur Majesties most loyall Subjects the Lords and Commons in Parliament, cannot conceive that the Declaration which your Majesty received from us at *New-Market*, was such as did deserve that censure your Majesty was pleased to lay upon us, in that Speech which your Majesty made to our Committees there, & sent in writing to both Houses; our addresse therein being accompanied with plainnesse, humility, and faithfulnes, we thought more proper for

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removing the distraction of the Kingdome, then if wee had then proceeded according to your Majesties message of the 20. of *Ianuary*. By which your Majesty was pleased to desire, that we would declare what we intended to doe for your Majesty, and what we expected to be done for our selves. In both which wee have bin very much hindred by your Majesties deniall to secure us and the whole Kingdome, by disposing the Militia as we had diverse times most humbly petitioned, and yet we have not bin altogether negligent of either, having lately made good proceedings in preparing a booke of Rates to be passed in a Bill of Tunnage and Poundage: and likewise the most materiall heads of those humble desires which we intended to make to your Majesty for the good and contentment of your Majesty and your people: but none of these could be perfected before the Kingdome be put into safety, by settling the Militia; And untill your Majesty shall be pleased to concurre with your Parliament in these necessary things, we hold it impossible for you to give the World or your people such satisfaction concerning the feares and jealousies which we have expressed, as we hope your Majesty hath already received touching that exception which you were pleased to take to Master *Pyms* Speech.

As for your Majesties feares and doubts, the ground whereof is from seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, we shall be as carefull to endeavour the removall, as soon as we shall understand what pamphlets and Sermons are by your Majesty intended; as we have beene to prevent all dangerous Tumults. And if any extraordinary concourse of people out of the City to WESTMINSTER, had the face and shew of tumult and danger in your Majesties apprehension, it will appeare to bee caused by your Majesties denyall of such

ſuch a Guard to your Parliament as they might have cauſe to confide in, And by taking into White-hall ſuch a Guard for your ſelfe, as gave juſt cauſe of jealouſie to the Parliament; and of terrour and offence to your people. Wee ſeeke nothing but your Majeſties Honour, and the peace and proſperity of your Kingdomes. And we are heartily ſorry wee have ſuch plentifull matter of an anſwer to that queſtion, whether you had violated our Lawes? Wee beſeech your Majeſty to remember that the governement of this Kingdome as it was in a great part mannaged by your Miniſters before the beginning of this Parliament, conſiſted of many continued and multiplied Acts of violation of Lawes, the wounds whereof were ſcarcely healed, when the extremity of all theſe violations, was far exceeded by the late ſtrange and unheard of breach of our Lawes in the accuſation of the Lord *Kimbolton*, and the five Members of the Commons Houſe and in the proceedings thereupon: for which we have yet received no full ſatisfaction.

To your Majeſties next queſtion, Whether you had denied any Bill for the eaſe and ſecurity of your Subjects, wee wiſh we could ſtop in the midſt of our anſwer; that with much thankfulneſſe we acknowledg that your Majeſty hath paſt many good Bils full of contentment, and advantage to your people: But Truth and Neceſſity enforceth us to adde this, That even in or about the time of paſſing thoſe Bills, ſome deſigne or other had beene afoot, which if it had taken effect, would not only have deprived us of the fruit of thoſe Bils, but have reduced us to a worſe condition of confuſion then that wherein the *Parliament* found us.

And if your Majeſty had asked us the third queſtion intimated in that ſpeech, what we had done for your ſelfe, our anſwer

anſwer would have been much more eaſie, That wee have paid two Armies wherewith the Kingdome was burthened laſt yeare; and have undergone the charge of the warre in *Ireland* at this time; when through many other exceſſive charges and preſſures, whereby your Subjects have bin exhauſted, and the ſtocke of the Kingdome very much diminiſhed; which great miſchiefes, and the charges thereupon enſuing, have been occaſioned by the evil Counſels ſo powerful with your Majeſty, which have and wil coſt this Kingdome more then two millions; all which in Iuſtice ought to have been borne by your Majeſty.

As for that free and generall pardon your Majeſty hath been pleaſed to offer, it can be no ſecurity to our feares and Iealouſies, for which your Majeſty ſeemes to propound it; becauſe they ariſe not from any guilt of our owne actions, but from the evill deſignes and attempts of others.

To this our humble anſwer to that ſpeech, wee deſire to adde an information which we lately received from the Deputy governour of the Merchant adventurers at *Rotterdam* in *Holland*, That an unknown perſon appertaining to the *Lord Digby* did lately ſollicite one *Iames Henly* a *Mariner* to goe to *Elſenore*, and to take charge of a ſhip in the fleet of the King of *Denmarke* there prepared, which he ſhould conduct to Hull: In which fleet likewiſe he ſaid a great Armie was to be tranſported. And although we are not apt to give credit to informations of this nature, yet we cannot altogether thinke it fit to be neglected, but that it may juſtly add ſomewhat to the weight of our feares and jealouſies, conſidering with what circumſtances it is accompanied of the Lord *Digbyes* preceding expreſſions in his Letter to her Majeſty, and Sir *Lewis Dives*, and your Majeſties ſucceeding courſe

courſe of withdrawing your ſelfe Northward from your *Parliament*, in a manner very ſutable and correſpondent to that evill Counſell.

Which we doubt will make much deeper impreſſion in the generality of your people. And therefore we moſt humbly adviſe and beſeech your Majeſty for the procuring and ſetling the confidence of your parliament and all your Subjects, and for the other important reaſons concerning the recovery of *Ireland*, and ſecuring this Kingdome, which have bin formerly preſented to your Majeſty, you will bee graciouſly pleaſed with all convenient ſpeed to returne to theſe parts, and to cloſe with the Counſell and deſire of your parliament: where you ſhall find their dutifull affections and endeavours, ready to attend your Majeſty with ſuch entertainement, as ſhall not onely give your Majeſty juſt cauſe of ſecuriry in their faithfulneſſe; but other manifold evidences of their earneſt intentions and endeavours to advance your Majeſties ſervice, honour, and contentment; and to eſtabliſh it upon the ſure foundation of the peace and proſperity of all your Kingdomes.

FINIS.

march 23. 1641

FINIS.

His Majesties Answer

To the Petition of both Houses of PARLIAMENT,

Presented to Him at *York* on Saturday the 26 of March, 1642. by the Lord *Willoughby*, Lord *Dungarvan*, and Sir *Anthony Irby*.

IF you would have had the patience to have expected Our Answer to your last Declaration (which, considering the nature of it, hath not been long in coming) We believe you would have saved your selves the labour of saying much of this Message. And We could wish that Our Priviledges on all parts were so Stated, that this way of Correspon-

respondencie might be preserved with that Freedom which hath been used of old: For We must tell you, that if you may ask any thing of Us by Message or Petition, and in what language (how unusuall soever) you think fit, & We must neither deny the thing you ask, nor give a reason why We cannot grant it, without being taxed of breaking your Priviledges, or being counselled by those who are enemies to the Peace of the Kingdom, and favourers of the Irish Rebellion (for We have seen your Printed Votes, upon Our Message from Huntington) you will reduce all Our Answers hereafter into a very little room; In plain English, It is to take away the Freedome of Our Vote, which were We but a Subject, were High Injustice; but being your King, We leave all the world to judge what it is.

Is this the way to compose all misunderstandings? We thought We shewed you one by our Message of the 20. of January, if you have a better or readier, We shall willingly hearken to it, for hitherto you have shewed Us none. But why the refusall to consent to your Order, (which you call a deniall of the Militia) should be any interruption to it, We cannot understand. For the Militia (which We alwaies thought necessary to be settled) We never denied the thing (as We told you in Our Answer of the 28. of January, to the Petition of the House of Commons

Commons, for We accepted the persons, (except for Corporations) We onely denied the way. You ask it by way of Ordinance, and with such a preface as We can neither with Justice to Our Honour, or innocency consent to: You exclude Us for any Power in the disposition or execution of it, together with you, and for a time utterly unlimited. We tell you We would have the thing done; Allow the persons (with that exception;) Desire a Bill (the onely good old way of imposing on Our Subjects.) We are extreamly unsatisfied what an Ordinance is, but well satisfied, that without Our Consent it is nothing, not binding: And it is evident by the long time spent in this Argument, the necessitie and danger was not so imminent, but a Bill might have well been prepared, which if it shall yet be done with that due regard to Us, and care of Our People, in the limitation of the power and other circumstances, We shall recede from nothing We formerly expressed in that Answer to your Order, otherwise We must declare to all the world, That We are not satisfied with, or shall ever allow Our Subjects to be bound by your printed Votes, of the fifteenth or sixteenth of this moneth, or that under pretence of declaring what the Law of the Land is, you shall without Us make a new Law, which is plainly the case of the Militia: And what is

this but to introduce an Arbitrarie way of Government.

Concerning Pyms Speech, you will have found by what the Lord Compton, and Mr. Barnard brought from us, in answer to that Message they brought to us, that as yet We rest nothing satisfied in that particular.

As for the seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, We are both sorry and ashamed in so great a variety, and in which Our Rights, Honour and Authority, are so insolently slighted and vilified, and in which the Dignitie and Freedome of Parliament is so much invaded and violated, it should be asked of Us to name any; the mentioning of the Protestation protested, the Apprentices Protestation, To your Tents, O Israel, or any other, would be too great an excuse for the rest. If you thinke them not worth your inquiry, we have done. But We think it most strange, to be told, That Our denialls of a Guard (which We yet never denied, but granted in another manner, and under a Command at that time most accustomed in the Kingdom) or the denialls of any thing else (which is in Our power legally to deny) which in Our understanding (of which God hath surely given Us some use) is not fit to be granted, should be any excuse for so dangerous concourse of people, which not onely in our apprehension, but (We believe) in the interpretation

pretation of Law it self, hath bin alwaies held most tumultuous and seditious. And We must wonder, what, and whence comes the Instructions and Informations that those people have, who can so easily think themselves obliged by the Protestation to assemble in such a manner, for the defence of Priviledges, which cannot be so clearly known to any of them, and so negligently passe over the consideration, and defence of Our Rights so beneficiall and necessary for themselves, and scarce unknown to any of them, which by their Oathes of Allegiance and Supremacy (and even by the same Protestation) they are at least equally obliged to defend. And what interruptions such kinde of Assemblies may be to the freedom of future Parliaments (if not seasonably discountenanced and suppressed) We must advise you to consider, as likewise whether both Our powers may not by such meanes be usurped, by hands not trusted by the Constitution of this Kingdom. For Our Guard, We referre you to Our answer to your Declaration.

By that Question of Violating your Lawes; by which We endeavoured to expresse Our care and resolution to observe them; We did not expect you would have been invited to have looked back so many yeers, for which you have had so ample Reparation; Neither looked We to be re-

proached with the Actions of our Ministers (then against the Lawes) whilst We expresse so great a zeale for the present defence of them, it being Our Resolution, upon observation of the mischief which then grew by Arbitrary power (though made plausible to Us by the suggestions of necessity and imminent danger, and take you heed ye fall not into the same errour upon the same suggestions) hereafter to keep the Rule Our self, and to Our power require the same from all others: But above all, We must be most sensible of what you cast upon Us for requitall of those good Bills you cannot denie. We have denied any such Designe, and as God Almighty must judge in that point between Us, who knowes Our upright intentions at the passing those Lawes: So in the mean time We defy the Devill to prove that there was any Designe (with Our knowledge or Privity) in or about the time of passing those Bills, that had it taken effect could have deprived Our subjects of the fruit of them: And therefore We demand full Reparation in this point, that We may be cleared in the sight of all the world, and chiefly in the eyes of our loving Subjects, from so notorious and false an imputation as this is.

We are far from denying what you have done, For We acknowledge the charge our people have sustained in keeping the two Armies,

Armies, and in relieving Ireland, of the which We are so sensible, that in regard of those great Burthens Our People have undergone, We have and do patiently suffer those extreme personall wants, as Our Predecessours have been seldome put to, rather then We would presse upon them: which We hope (in time) will be considered on your parts.

In Our offer of a Generall Pardon, Our intent was to compose and secure the generall condition of Our Subjects, conceiving that in these times of great Distractions, the good Lawes of the Land have not been enough observed; But it is a strange world when Princes profered Favors are counted Reproaches: yet if you like not this Our offer We have done.

Concerning any discourses of Forreign Forces, though We have given you a full Answer in Ours to your last Declaration, yet We must tell you, We have neither so ill an opinion of Our own merit, or the Affections of Our good Subjects, as to think Our self in need of any Forreign Force to preserve Us from Oppression (and We shall not need for any other purpose) but are confident (through Gods providence) not to want the goodwishes and assistance of the whole Kingdome, being resolved to build upon that sure Foundation, the Law of the Land. And We take it very ill that any

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generall Discourses betweene an unknown Person and a Mariner, or inferences upon Letters should be able to prevail in matters so improbable in themselves, and scandalous to Us, for which We cannot but likewise Reparation, not onely for the vindicating of Our Own Honour, but also thereby to settle the mindes of Our Subjects, whose Feares and Jealousies would soon vanish, were they not fed and maintained by such false and malicious Rumours as these.

For our return to Our Parliament, We have given you a full Answer in Ours to your Declaration, and you ought to look on Us as not gone but driven (We say not by you, yet) from you. And if it be not so easie for you to make Our Residence in London so safe as We could desire, We are, and will be contented that Our Parliament be adjourned to such a place, where We may be fitly and safely with you. For though we are not pleased to be at this distance, yet yee are not to expect Our Presence, Untill ye shall both secure Us concerning Our just apprehensions of Tumultuary insolencies, And likewise give Us satisfaction for those Insupportable and Insolent Scandals that are raised upon Us.

To conclude, As We have or shall not Refuse any way agreeable to Justice or Honour, which shall be offered to Us for the beget-